

**NATIONAL MOTORISTS ASSOCIATION
MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

**COMMENTS ON HB 4466 – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
May 16, 2017**

The National Motorists Association is a grassroots motorists rights organization with active chapters in many states around the nation as well as several provinces of Canada with the mission of looking after the rights and interests of those who use public roads for business and pleasure. The NMA advocates for traffic safety through sound engineering and quality driver education, fairly written traffic laws and enforcement, freedom from arbitrary traffic stops and onerous search/seizures and other issues directly affecting the quality of life on our public roads.

The National Motorists Association opposes HB 4466 for the following reasons:

- HB 4466 adds holding, not just using, a personal electronic device as a violation, disregarding the reality that just holding the device is not a danger
- The bill strikes “vehicle that is moving” language and applies the handheld electronic device prohibition to all vehicles in operation on the road, including those that are temporarily stationary –sitting at a stop light or in congested traffic
- Voice-operated and hands-free devices still appear to be permitted in addition to mounted devices with features that can be operated with a single hand swipe or finger tap
- The penalties for violation would increase dramatically and unreasonably with first violations going up from \$100 to \$250 and second violations from \$200 to \$500

Responsible drivers understand the consequences of potential distractions and respond in an appropriately safe manner for conditions. We do not recommend using a handheld electronic device while operating a vehicle, but distracted driving should not be a predetermined offense with the presumption of distraction. If the level of distraction – whether talking on a phone, fiddling with the environmental or entertainment controls, staring at roadside signs, or talking with a passenger – reaches a point that the driver is no longer safely and responsibly operating his/her vehicle, they are guilty of distracted driving and any other violations that may result from their inattention.

We recommend HB 4466 not be reported out of committee.

For background on the National Motorists Association go to: www.motorists.org
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